

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1915

E. O. 11652: GDS 12-31-79

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: SURVIVABILITY OF NATO HEADQUARTERS

REF: USNATO 1065

SUMMARY: POLADS APRIL 16 DISCUSSED A DRAFT REPORT BACK TO COEC WHICH CONCLUDES THAT COUNCIL SHOULD BE RECONSTITUTED IN WASHINGTON. STRONG ITALIAN AND FRENCH RESERVATIONS BLOCKED AGREEMENT. POLADS WILL CONSIDER REVISED REPORT IN TWO WEEKS. END SUMMARY.

1. FOCUS OF POLADS DISCUSSION WAS FINAL PARA OF DRAFT REPORT WHICH CONCLUDES:

" SHOULD THE COUNCIL/ DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION, EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER RELOCATION IN EUROPE, BE UNABLE FOR ANY REASON TO CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS. THE CHIEFS OF ALLIED DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN WASHINGTON, MEETING UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE OR HIS DEPUTY, COULD APPROPRIATELY ASSUME THE ROLE, FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COUNCIL IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE IX OF THE TREATY."

2. THERE WAS GENERAL CONCURRENCE IN CONCLUSION, EXCEPT FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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ITALY AND FRANCE. FRG STILL EXPECTS INSTRUCTIONS.

3. UNDER INSTRUCTIONS, ITALIAN POLAD SAID THAT GOI IS UNWILLING EVEN TO CONSIDER CONTINGENCY OF RECONSTITUTION IN WASHINGTON, BY NAME. HE REHEARSED ARGUMENT THAT IN EVENT OF HOSTILITIES IT WILL BE MOST IMPORTANT FOR MORALE OF WESTERN EUROPE THAT NAC SOMEHOW REMAIN IN EUROPE. IF NAC ABANDONS CONTINENT AFTER FIRST SHOTS ARE FIRED, IT WOULD BE TAKEN BY THE PEOPLE OF EUROPE AS ADMISSION OF DEFEAT; IT WOULD BE EQUALLY UNFORTUNATE SHOULD RECONSTITUTION PLANS BECOME KNOWN IN ADVANCE OF HOSTILITIES. AS ALTERNATIVES, ITALIAN POLAD SUGGESTED AGREEING AN MODALITIES OF RECONSTITUTION WITHOUT NAMING CAPITAL, OR AGREEING ON A NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE SITES.

4. FRENCH POLAD SAID THAT RECONSTITUTION IS NOT AN URGENT QUESTION, AND THAT GOF NOT PREPARED TO CONSIDER IT UNTIL AFTER COMPLETION STUDIES UNDERWAY ON HARDENED SITE.

5. IS REP SOUGH, UNSUCCESSFULLY, TO REBUT ITALIAN ARGUMENT. HE POINTED OUT THAT IDENTIFICATION OF A SERIES OF ALTERNATE NAC SITES IS A CONFUSING WAY TO PROCEED, AND THAT FEW SITES HAD THE STAFF, DOCUMENTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TO SERVICE A RECONSTITUTED COUNCIL.

6. POLAD CHAIRMAN WILL PREPARE A NEW DRAFT REPORT WHICH RECORDS DIFFERING VIEWS OF ITALY AND FRANCE. RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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